

<http://www.morningjournal.com/article/MJ/20150820/NEWS/150829944>

Article Posted on The Morning Journal News WWW Site

*About the Author*

Richard Payerchin covers Lorain City Hall, business news and other interesting stories for The Morning Journal. Reach the author at [rpayerchin@MorningJournal.com](mailto:rpayerchin@MorningJournal.com) or follow Richard on Twitter: [@MJ\\_JournalRick](https://twitter.com/MJ_JournalRick).

<http://www.morningjournal.com/article/MJ/20150820/NEWS/150829944>

## Group looking at effects of Lake Erie algae bloom



This image from the NOAA CoastWatch - Great Lakes Region website shows the green algae bloom in the western basin of Lake Erie as of Aug. 19, 2015. Lake Erie Shores & Islands visitors bureau is conducting a survey of coastal businesses to find out if the 2015 algae bloom is affecting travel and tourism to Ohio's shoreline.

By [Richard Payerchin](#), The Morning Journal

Posted: 08/20/15, 8:42 PM EDT | Updated: on 08/20/2015

## [0 Comments](#)

An area visitors bureau wants to find out if algae blooms in Lake Erie are affecting travel and tourism along the shore this summer.

Lake Erie Shores & Islands has drafted an online survey for coastal businesses to share information about financial effects of algae blooms that have affected Lake Erie water quality.

Lake Erie Shores & Islands has offices near Sandusky and Port Clinton and promotes visits to Erie and Ottawa counties, including attractions such as Cedar Point and Put-in-Bay.

However, the survey is open to any business affected by the algae bloom, which is reported in news media outlets around Ohio, said Larry Fletcher, executive director of Lake Erie Shores & Islands.

### Advertisement

The lake algae bloom in August 2014 made national news when toxins from the algae were detected in the city of Toledo drinking water, prompting the city to issue a warning to northwest Ohio residents not to consume its water.

The job of Lake Erie Shores & Islands is to promote travel and tourism and to attract people to the region, Fletcher said

“But if we don’t protect the resource, that makes it a lot more difficult,” he said.

The visitors bureau has contacts with state agencies such as the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Department of Natural Resources on a number of issues, including the algae bloom, Fletcher said.

So far there has been anecdotal evidence of businesses affected by the algae. “We know there are businesses that have been impacted, especially the charter boat captains and the marine industry,” Fletcher said.

There also is a concern about the possibility of future trips, Fletcher said.

For example, a family that booked a trip and made a deposit probably will show up this summer, even with an algae bloom, but they may not return in future years if they don’t have access to the lake now, he said.

The survey includes nine questions such as whether businesses have fielded questions from guests about the algae bloom and whether businesses had cancellations as a result of the algae bloom.

<http://www.morningjournal.com/article/MJ/20150820/NEWS/150829944>

This year's online survey link was sent to the business members of Lake Erie Shores & Islands, along with Destination Toledo visitors bureau, the Lake Erie Charter Boat Association, the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association and the chambers of commerce in Erie and Ottawa counties.

Those groups include member businesses that are in Lorain County. Visit Lorain County visitors bureau was not included in the first email about the survey because the algae bloom has not spread that far into the central basin of the lake, Fletcher said.

"But it's on the way," he added.

Lake Erie Shores & Islands hopes to collect responses by Aug. 28, Fletcher said.

A link to the survey is here: <http://conta.cc/1JjePRx>